

January 2010 to March 2010

(Volume 30)





JANUARY 2010 (Volume 30)





This album is a typical one in the series. An amalgamation of personal shots, personal viewpoints and some (I hope) interesting shots of the contemporary life around me.

This year has seen some sad declines in the UK scene and I personally feel pretty despondent. Moral values seem to embrace the lowering of standards and Lynn and I feel more and more like 'grumpy old folks'. Yes perhaps we are but we feel that our attitude is not without fair cause. The acquisition of material assets by everyone does not necessarily bring happiness in conjunction with their purchase. Saving up and sometimes not obtaining that 'desired' item makes it much more valued when it is eventually obtained. The item is valued and enjoyed more for the difficulty experienced in its attainment. It will not be so readily discarded.

Enough of that.... Business is difficult and with the credit crunch less people are spending less money on catering and every job is a struggle to secure. I see many well known names having a difficult time and with my low overheads I hope I can weather the downturn...it is very difficult.

On a happier note Larnie took several entrance exams for her next secondary school stage in her life and Tammy and Ben spent sleepless nights waiting for the results. Tammy could not wait for that dreaded envelope to fall on the mat and phoned the council to hear that her first choice, Jaycos, was offered. We are all delighted. Larnie deserved it as she has worked hard to achieve this result.

DP and Angela are currently having a difficult time and DP is looking at Dutch barges with a view to buying one and 'doing it up' as a home.

They will have to work through this themselves but we are there for them both when needed and they adore the kids so they are getting all the love they need and deserve.

Lynn and I are so happy with our home and we really hope that things will be good so that it is not in jeopardy. We have had a great time in this periods with our friends and realise that some of the best times are when we get together have a meal and a heated political or social barny afterwards. It can get quite heated but never ends on bad terms.

Weatherwise, and no Englishman can resist talking about the weather, has been very extreme in this period. Terrific cold spells and snow and very wet weather both of which have caused chaos in London and even more chaos across the country. Earthquakes and the following tsunamis have caused enormous death tolls around the world and even places like Madeira have lost many lives in floods.

Politically it is the usual rubbish and probably if you have read previous intros in my 'Photo History' you will be aware of the low regards I feel for politicians. They are showing themselves to be totally corrupt and out for themselves. This has always been true but with the expenses exposure it is now well and truly in the public domain and all can see the truth. A forthcoming general election is showing the crap that they all speak and as they slag off one another it shows personalities are as always more important than policies. Same old treadmill but the public are getting angry... watch this space... March 2010



Sunlight on Canary Wharf in the distance, viewed from across Broomfield park at Southgate, reminds us of our close proximity to The City and how beautiful the cold air enhances the atmosphere.



A small symbol of
winter seen in
Grovelands when
we went for a
snowy walk



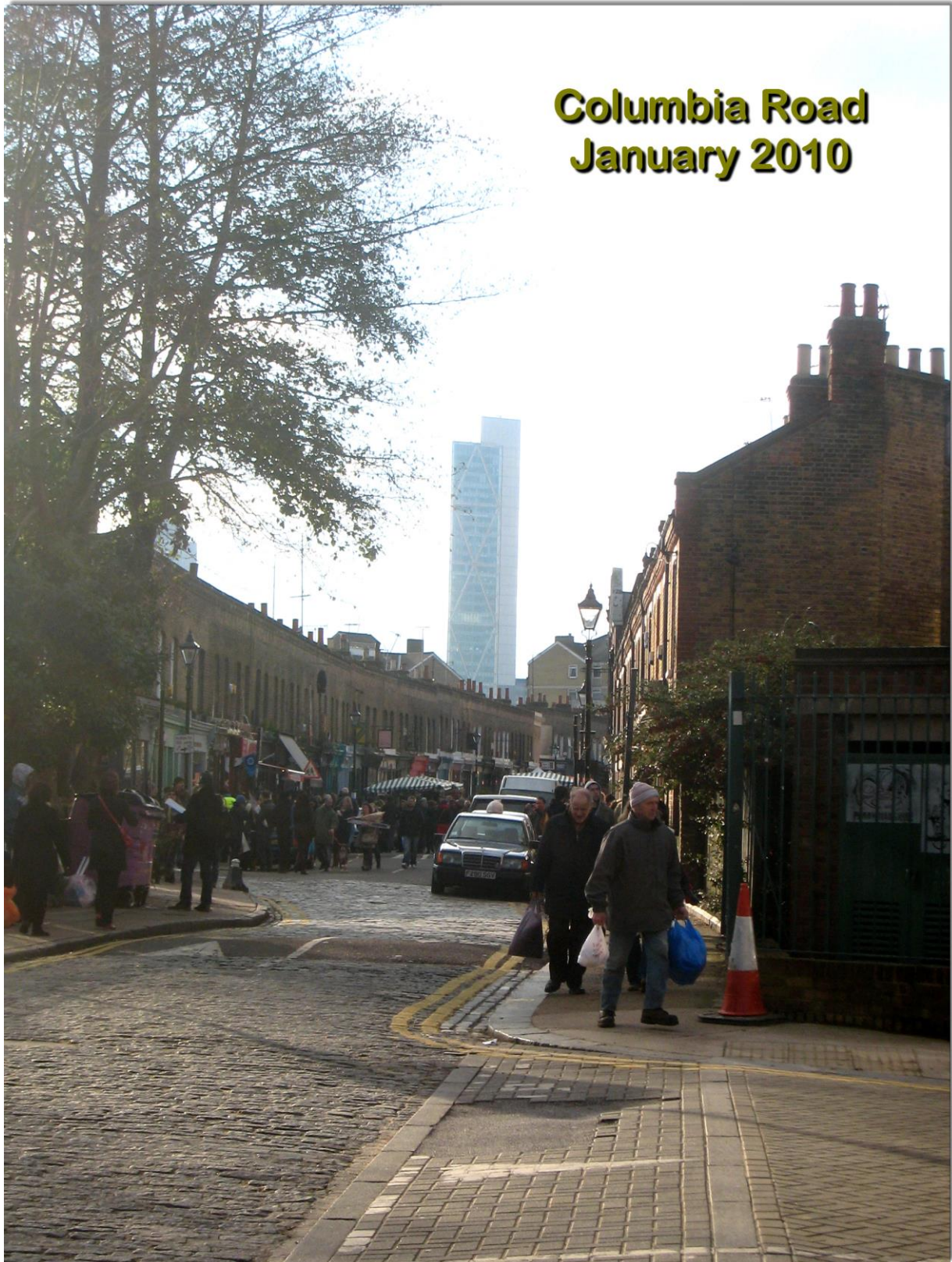
Late January we took a winter walk along Columbia Road and the into Brick Lane with Vivy and Walter





An Italian breakfast at the end of Columbia Road warmed the cockles of our heart....





The city hovering above the small artisan houses seems such a contrast ..that's what makes London so special



Walking, or rather 'noshing' our way along Brick Lane





Every nationality and culture seem to enjoy the 'Brick Lane' experience...

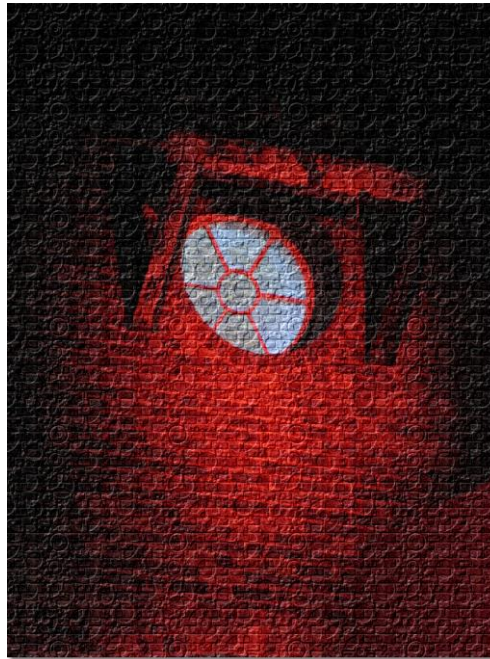
Walter investigates the interior of a new-style car

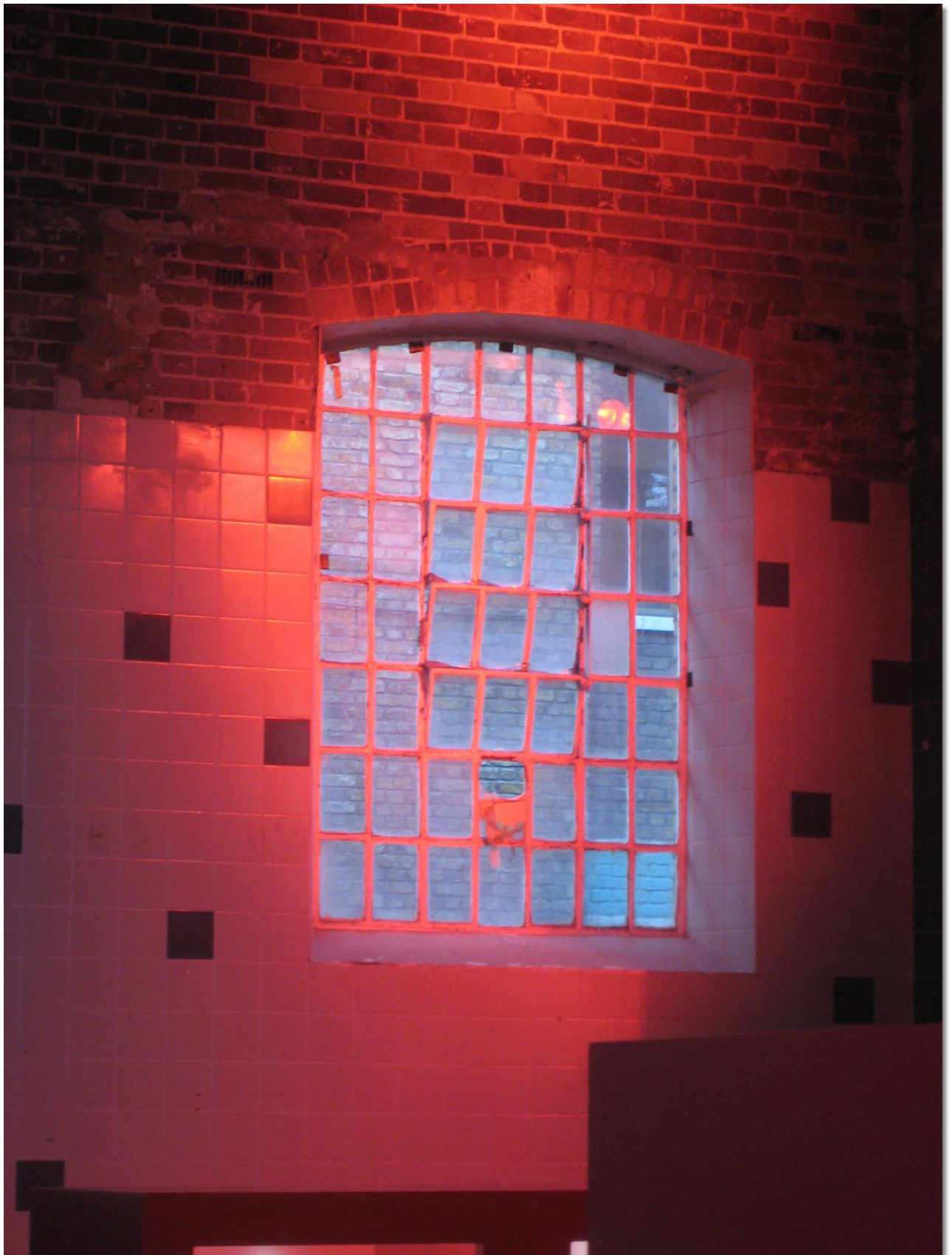




These three gorgeous girls were totally absorbed in selling their food to the public and gave me this most wonderful shot









Larnie is now 11 and Ben & Tammy arranged a limo birthday party with 15 boys and girls, her favourite CD was played as she came into the limo and they went up to Ally Pally and then home. The house was decked out Hollywood style with red carpet, clapperboard etc and she had a great day...Glad we were not within hearing distance...

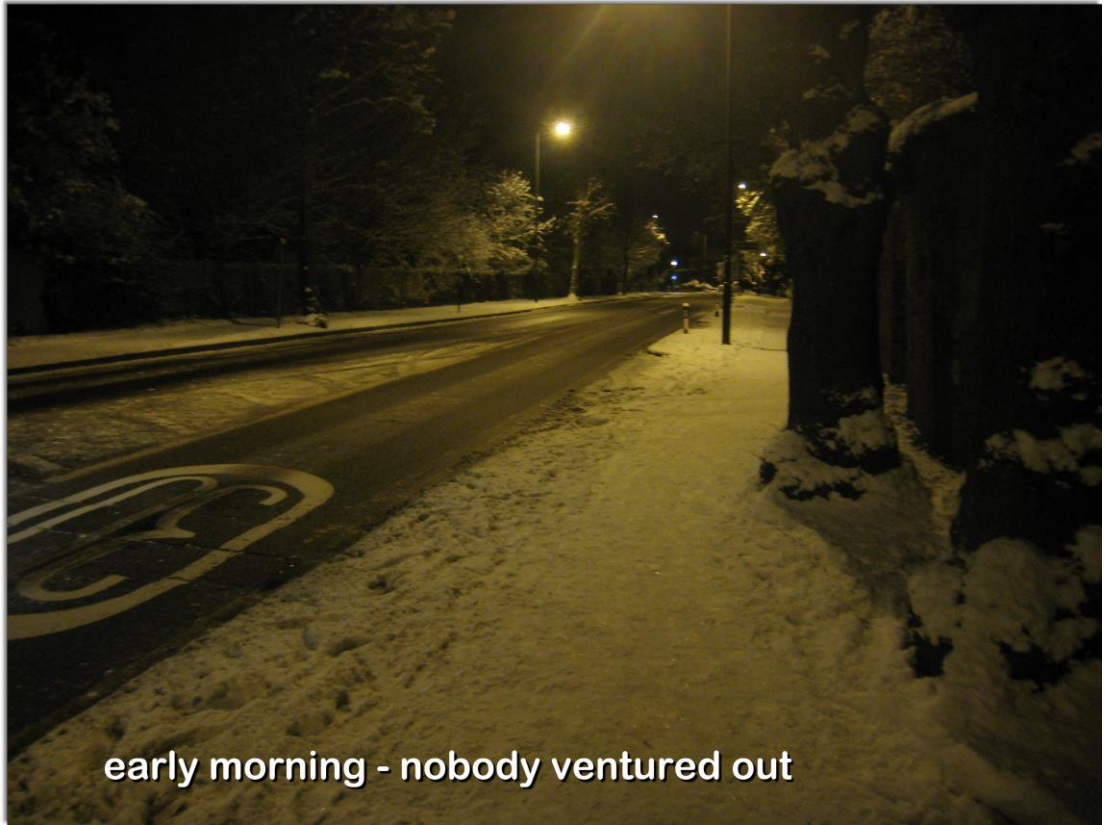






January took the UK by surprise with the sudden extreme snowfall and schools closed, transport was decimated and it looked lovely...BUT the beauty soon wore off and everyone moaned...still that's one thing we do really well in the UK.





early morning - nobody ventured out





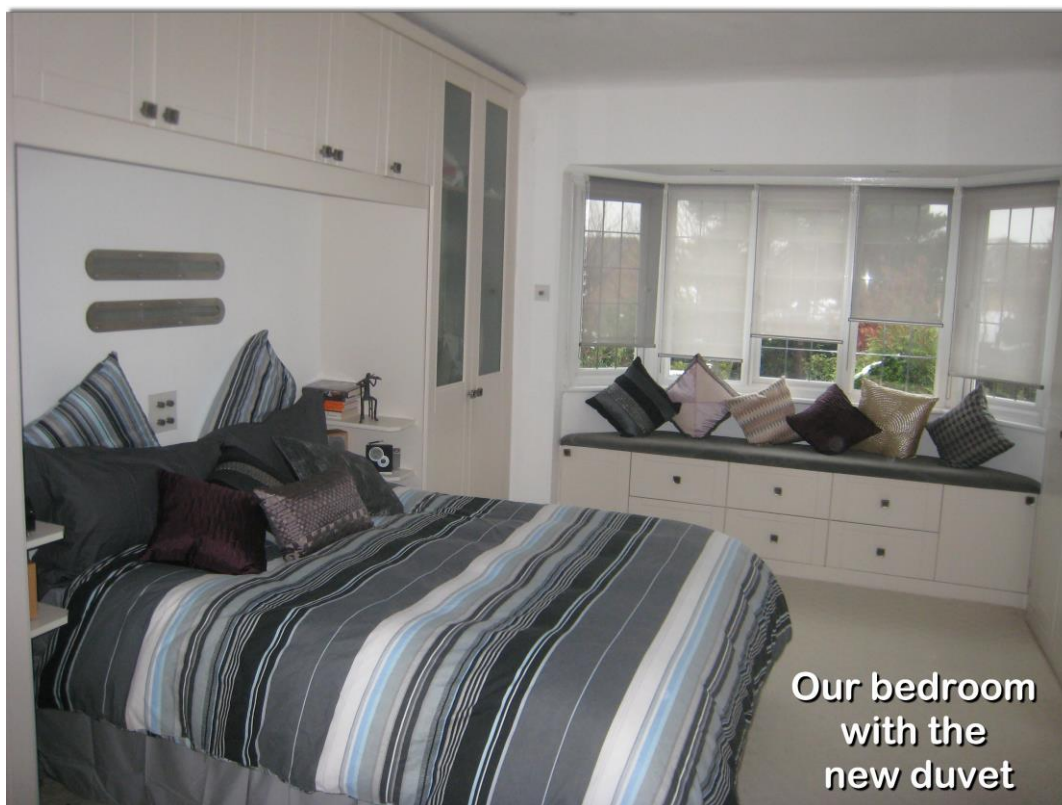
Grovelands lake froze over







A few pictures around the house



Our bedroom
with the
new duvet



Our bedroom



Lynn's bathroom



Lynn's bathroom



Tammy made me a birthday tea and it was great fun and most enjoyable



We went to St. Johns a couple of times around the beginning of the year as it is a noisy gastro-pub where everyone enjoys the excellent food and all ages seem to be comfortable there



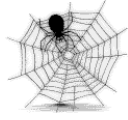


Celebrating 10 years
together
January 2010

Jo and I have worked together for ten years and it has been a great time developing the business. Lynn joined us in a Turkish meal to celebrate the occasion



In the garden bracket fungus appeared on the cut beech tree pieces around the patio.



A most beautiful natural display



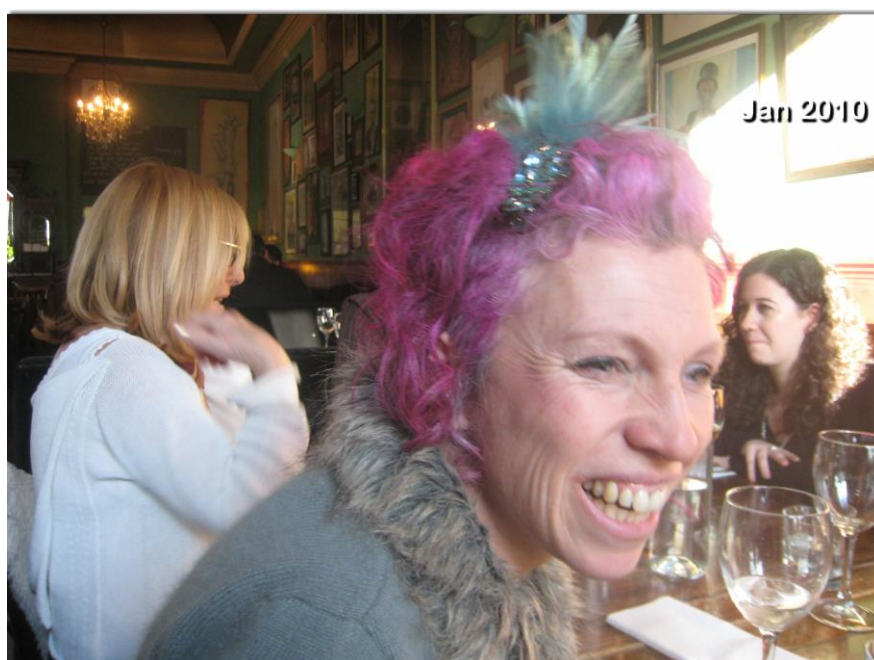
Julia Potter is studying in London (just like Mum Linda did years ago) and Linda and David came to see her and we managed to meet up at St Johns for a really great 'get-together'. DP, Angela and their kids came as did Mum. Unfortunately Tammy, Ben & Larnie were unable to come at the last minute as Larnie was not well. Mum had had a bad nose bleed and came straight from the hospital and completed the family re-union. Most people of her age would certainly not have made the effort and we were delighted that she was so positive.



Mum and Linda



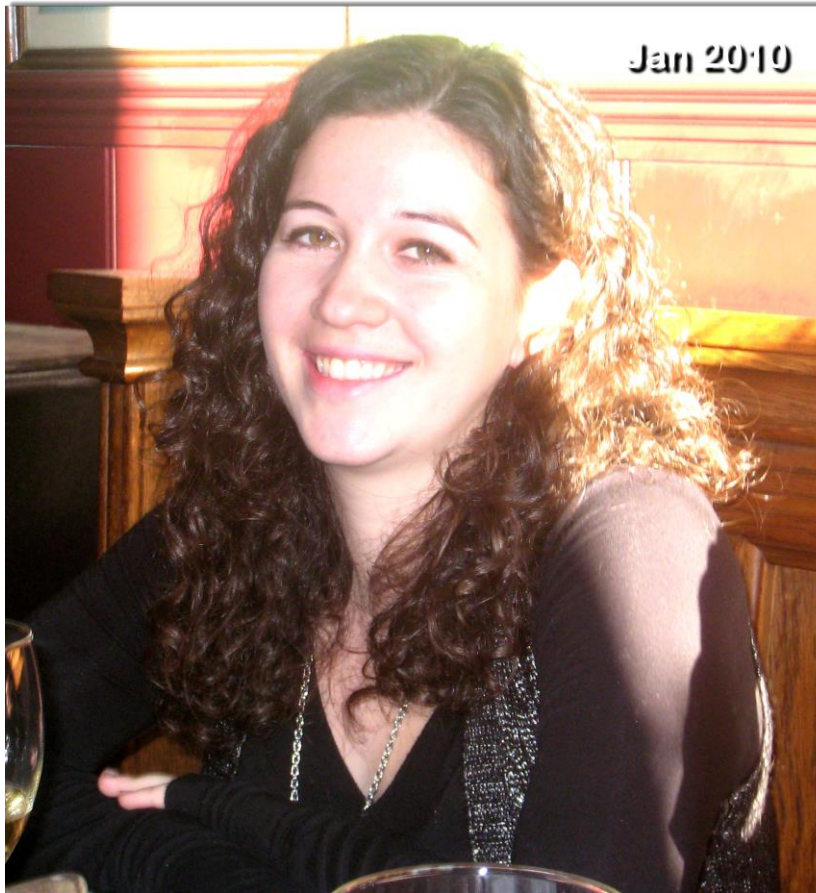
Lynn with David and Julia



Angela in animated conversation. It was great that everyone got on so well and it was a memorable day.

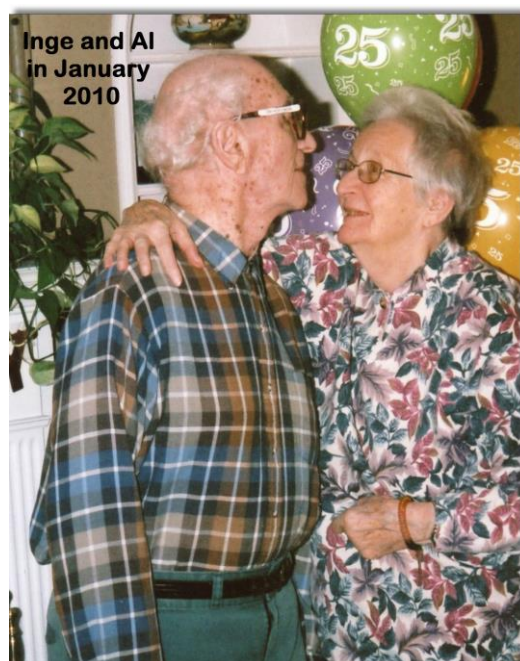
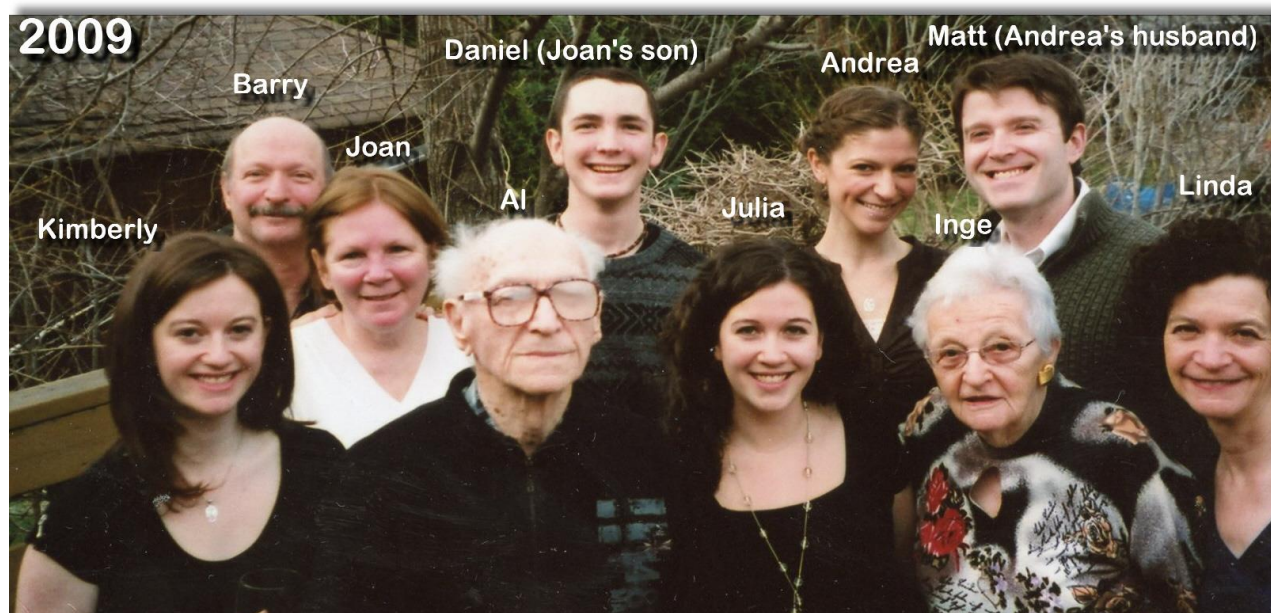


Julia and DP

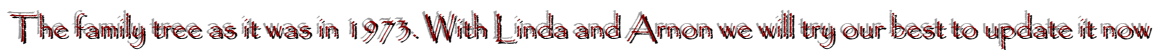




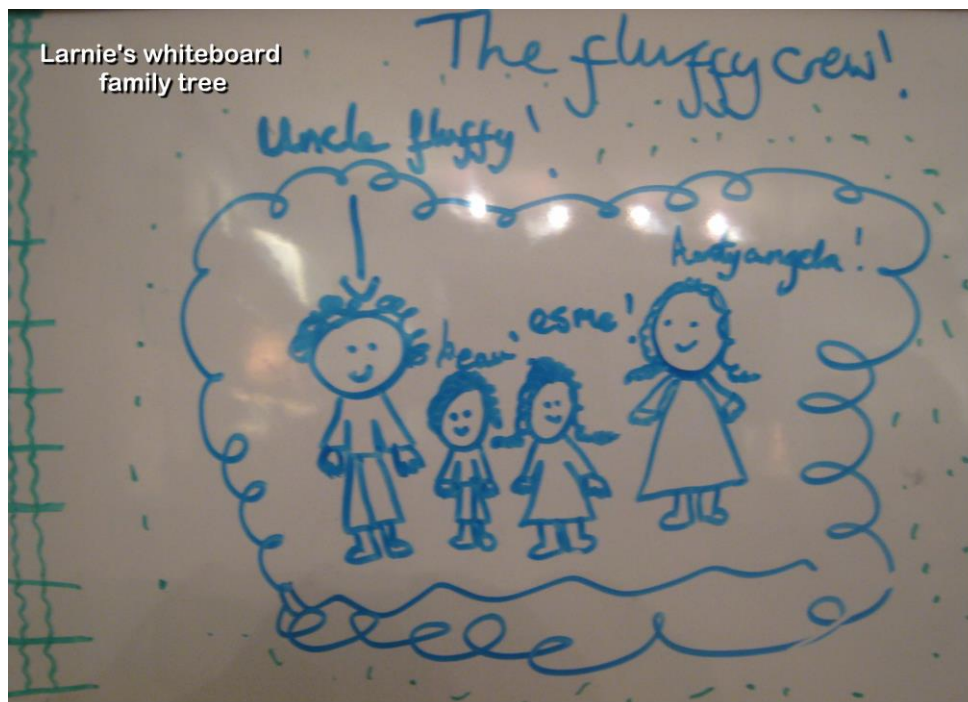
Linda gave us some family shots and I have shown the names so we know who is who



Barry and Linda with Inge and Dave

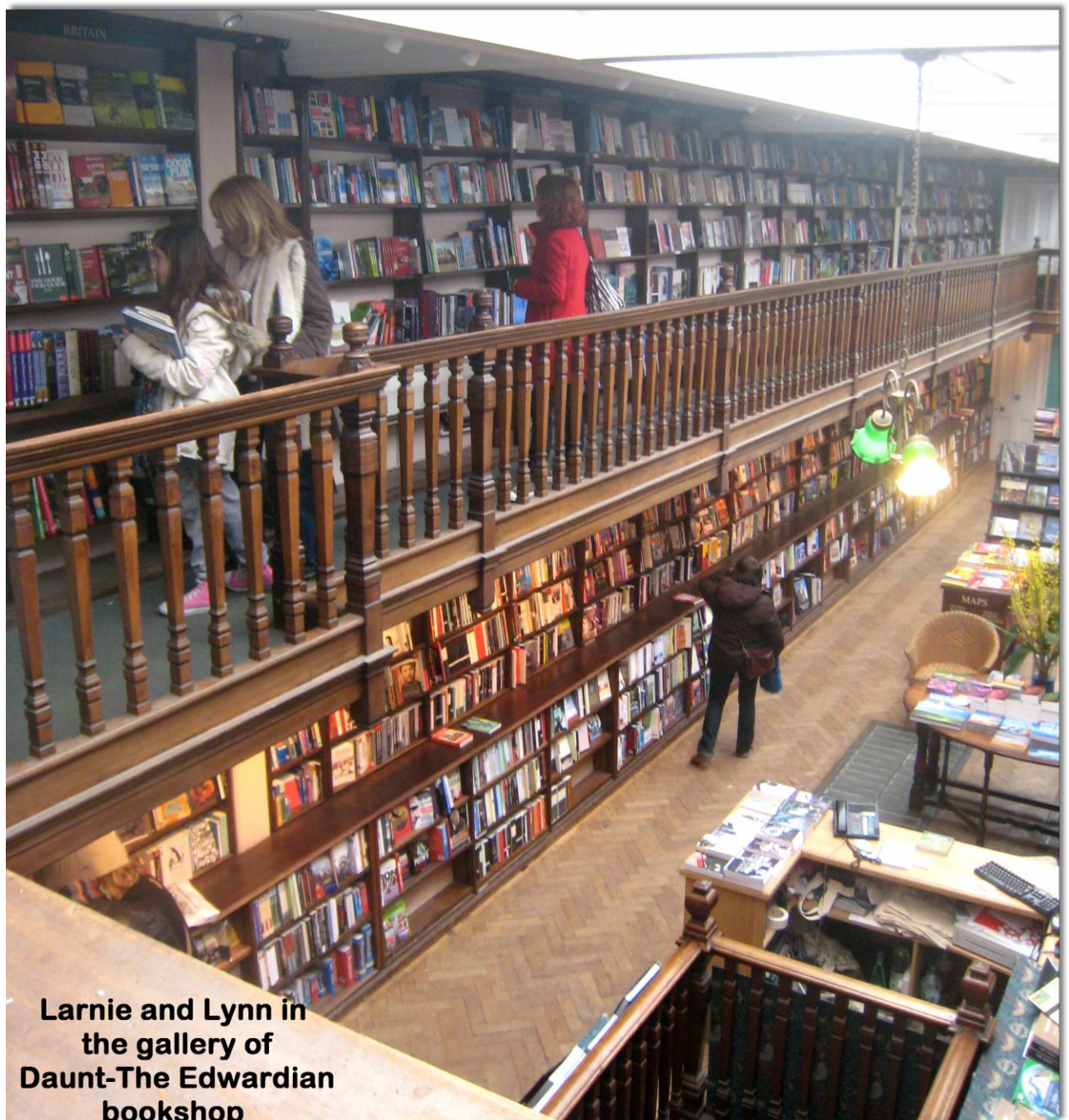


This is shot that Linda emailed me from Canada (Dave took it and downloaded to 'Flickr'. I love this ease of communicating...it is so immediate and so much better than writing.



Climbing
frames in
Trent
Park



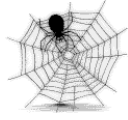


**Larnie and Lynn in
the gallery of
Daunt-The Edwardian
bookshop**



**Valentine's
Day
in London**

This is the sort of eccentricity that makes life in London so special.....



Parliament Hill Fields on a cold and sunny February day



A bonus was the sun-enhanced view at the top





The table set
for a Scottish
themed lunch
with Ivor, Judy,
Steve and Joan

